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Public Service Commission of South Carolina  
Att: Docketing Dept.  
P.O. Drawer 11649  
Columbia, SC 29211

February 25, 2010

Re: Docket No. 2009-489-E

I have received notification from SCE&G that they had filed an application with you requesting the authority for a rate hike of 9.52%.

I am writing to encourage you to turn down their request.

Although the notification provided to its customers by SCE&G gave the impression that they need the increase for investments and government required upgrades, information provided by AARP would lead me to question the validity of their request.

Specifically:

- SCE&G was approved for a 2.5 percent rate increase annually for the next decade, following a 4.4 percent rate hike in 2008.
- New rate hike will boost residential power bills for the average SCE&G customer by about \$140 a year by July 2011.
- For Duke Power customers, the cost of 1,000 kilowatt hours is about \$93, following its recent rate increase. For SCE&G, the same level of power costs \$118. The rate boost, if granted, would put it at \$130.
- SCE&G has higher rates than other investor-owned utilities, as well as publicly owned Santee-Cooper.

This is a time of economic hardship for many of SCE&G's customers. I have recently been laid off from work and am collecting unemployment benefits well below my prior salary. Allowing SCE&G to increase their rates would add to my economic hardships and seemingly reward them for their mismanagement of a public trust. How else can they explain a difference of \$25 per 1000 kilowatt hours between their cost and Duke Power? And now they want to create an even greater difference.

Do not reward them for such behavior. Please hold them accountable to the public that they are suppose to be serving.

Sincerely,



Kevin Carlin  
7344 Stoney Moss Dr.  
Hanahan, SC 29410

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